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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : C/PPS

DATE: 31 October 1958

FROM : C/LAS/TR

SUBJECT: The National Defense Education Act

REF : Your request for comments, received 30 Oct 58

1. By way of background, during the past 18 months I have participated in four conferences relating to subject legislation --two with the Office of Education, one with the Bureau of the Budget, and one with the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS). The general feeling in these conferences has been that the legislation, and implementation by the Office of Education are directed at creating anew and strengthening existing centers and institutes of foreign area studies designed to develop academicians. It has been my own feeling that fundamental solutions to the nation's language deficit have been by-passed--intensive language programs at the graduate and undergraduate level, institutes to train teachers in modern foreign language teaching methods, and more and better instruction in colleges, high schools and even grade schools, as well as possibly developing instructional materials. Whether this impression is correct and whether, if so, the Commissioner of Education can be influenced to consider desirability of giving proportionate emphasis in these areas cannot be determined by me at this time. The ACLS tomorrow (1 November), on contract, begins a 90-day survey to determine the language "requirements" of government, business and education as a basis for planning implementation of the program (an utterly unrealistic activity).

2. If I were the Director, I'd stress consideration and inclusion of activities resembling those referred to above as seemingly neglected in the program.

3. I hope these comments will assist you. I have disregarded as irrelevant several largely erroneous statements in the letter by

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